PROCLAMATION 5-14-02

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is dedicated to the positive development of its children and youth; and

WHEREAS, adolescent pregnancy continues to be a serious and complex national and local issue that impacts the social, economic, health and developmental outcomes for youth; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Alexandria established the Interagency Consortium on Adolescent Pregnancy (ICAP), a consortium of public and private youth-serving agencies, committed to reducing adolescent pregnancy and promoting services to adolescent parents; and in 2001 was successful in securing a grant from Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, in partnership with Inova Health Systems, to assist with the costs of its media campaign; and

WHEREAS, in January 1999, Mayor Kerry J. Donley formed the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Reducing Teen Pregnancy to work in conjunction with ICAP to address this critical issue and to focus specifically on developing a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing adolescent pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, in November 2000, the Task Force and ICAP merged and established the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) to focus community-wide efforts on the goal of reducing Alexandria's teen pregnancy rate by 25 percent by 2005 through public awareness and education and direct service programming; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2002, ACAP will sponsor a Summer Kick-Off Soccer Clinic to encourage children and adolescents to stay involved in sports, a factor that has been shown to reduce teen pregnancy rates; and ACAP will launch a year-long public awareness campaign that includes advertising at Hoyt's Cinemas in Potomac Yard, on DASH buses, posters, print ads in Spanish and English, educational brochures for parents and adolescents, and special events for youth to get out the message that adolescent pregnancy is not an acceptable choice in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria remains committed to reducing the rate and incidence of adolescent pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2002, as:

"TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH"

in Alexandria, and I call upon our citizens to observe this month by supporting activities that focus on enhancing our efforts to reduce adolescent pregnancy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 14th day of May 2002.

KERRY J. DONLEY MAYOR

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk